

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**  
OF THE  
ROTHWELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Fourteenth Annual Report for the year ending 1905.

The Vital Statistics of the District may be taken as follows :

Area of Sanitary District, 3476 acres.  
Population estimated at 5090.  
Density of Population, 1·47.  
Births, 122. Males, 59 ; Females, 63.  
Birth rate, 23·96 per 1000.  
Increase of Population, 10·21 per 1000.  
Deaths, 70. Males, 38 ; Females, 32.  
Death rate, 13·75.  
Deaths under one year of age, 22.  
Death rate under one year, 180·32 per 1000 births.

The following were the chief causes of death as returned to the Registrar :

Scarlet Fever	..	...	...	7
Whooping Cough		...	...	5
Marasmus and Atrophy	..	...	...	3
Malignant Disease	...	...	...	5
Bronchitis	..	...	...	9
Disease of the Circulatory System				8
Convulsions	...	...	...	7
Apoplexy	...	...	...	4
Nephritis	...	...	...	2
Senectus	...	...	...	5
Premature Birth	...	...	...	1
Influenza	...	...	...	1
Other causes	..	...	...	13
				70

The following list will give the ages at which these deaths occurred :

Under 1 year	...	..	...	22
Over 1 and under 5 years			...	17
Over 5 and under 15 years			...	4
Over 15 and under 25 years			...	3
Over 25 and under 65 years			...	10
Over 65 years	...	...	...	14
				70

From the above it will be seen that the death roll has been rather heavier, than during the preceding two or three years, but our death rate (13·75) is still well under the average of the last ten years which works out at 14·23.



## HEALTH OF THE TOWN :

During the year we have had a pretty extensive epidemic of Scarlet Fever, no fewer than 129 cases being reported. These occurred during the following months :

January	...	11	May	...	6	September	...	15
February	...	10	June	...	4	October	...	14
March	...	5	July	...	6	November	...	18
April	...	7	August	...	25	December	...	8

From the above it will be seen that at no period of the year were we quite free from the disease, but that during the months of August, September, October, and November most of the cases were notified

On the whole the epidemic was of a very mild type, as is shown by the fact that out of 129 cases there were only 7 deaths, and at no time during the year was the spread of the disease at all serious. In the month of August when 25 cases were notified, it was confined to a few houses, three of them accounting for 12 cases.

It was not possible to trace the cause of the epidemic with any certainty, it was probably imported in the first instance.

In every case the strictest precautions were taken, and everything that was possible was done to prevent the spread of the disease, but in one or two instances very mild cases were never seen till they had reached the peeling stage, and it was only discovered that they had been affected, by other members of the family contracting the disease.

The cases notified occurred at the following ages :

- 6 under 1 year.
- 44 between 1 and 5 years.
- 74 between 5 and 15 years.
- 2 between 15 and 25 years.
- 3 over the age of 25 years.

Of the deaths which took place from Scarlet Fever :

- 1 was under 1 year.
- 4 between 1 and 5 years.
- 2 between 5 and 15 years.

## HOUSE ACCOMMODATION :—

The house accommodation in the town is very good, no houses having been condemned as unfit for habitation. In one or two cases, notably in Gas Street, the houses were found to be kept in a filthy condition, prompt action was taken and the nuisance rectified.

## SEWAGE AND DRAINAGE :—

The town was thoroughly re-drained some six or seven years ago, and the filter beds are in good working order.

## REMOVAL OF REFUSE :—

The refuse is at present removed by public scavengers who go round the town at stated times, taking the refuse away in a cart.

## WATER SUPPLY :—

We have an excellent water supply, which is now laid on all over the town, so that there is no reason why any house should not have a good supply of water, both for drinking and household purposes.



THE MILK SUPPLY :—

The cowsheds are inspected by the Veterinary Surgeon to the Council. None of the infectious cases notified were traceable to the milk supply.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES :—

These have been visited from time to time and found in a satisfactory condition.

BAKEHOUSES :—

These were all found to be satisfactory on visiting the premises. We have no under-ground bakehouses in the town.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS :—

All the factories and as many of the workshops as could be found out have been inspected. In nearly all cases they were found to be in a satisfactory condition, and in the few cases where defects were pointed out, these have been remedied. No case of infectious disease was notified from any of the houses of the out-workers.

DISTRICT NURSE :—

Since my last report we have secured the services of an excellent District Nurse, she has discharged her duties with the greatest discretion and tact, and has given every satisfaction both to those committed to her charge, and the Doctors in attendance.

In conclusion I must offer my very best thanks to the Surveyor, Mr. T. Betts, and the Deputy Clerk, Mr. W. Tozer, for the willingness which they have always shown to render me any assistance when required.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

February, 1906.

J. MORE, M.O.H.

